

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----180055Z 097173 /14

O R 180005Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2818
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0805

EXDIS

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, US, SF, WA
SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL: SOUTH AFRICA

REF: USUN 788 (NOTAL)

1. AMBASSADOR YOUNG HOSTED WORKING BREAKFAST MARCH 17
ATTENDED BY REPS OF: UK, FRANCE, FRG, CANADA, BENIN,
MAURITIUS, LIBYA, NIGERIA, TANZANIA AND INDIA. AMBASSADOR
YOUNG EXPRESSED US HOPE FOR CONSENSUS AGREEMENT ON MEASURES
TO INSURE A SMOOTH TRANSFER TO MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA, FREE OF VIOLENCE. HE APPEALED FOR A COMMON STRATEGY
OVER THE COMING MONTHS, IN WHICH OTHER UN MEMBERS COULD
STRENGTHEN WEST'S EFFORTS IN DEALING WITH SOUTH AFRICA BY
OFFERING THEIR SUPPORT.

2. INDIAN PERM REP JAIPAL EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO
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ACCEPT ANY INITIATIVE WHICH SUPPORTS THAT OBJECTIVE,
OFFERING HIS AGREEMENT TO AN SC DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES,
WHICH WOULD BE SUPPLEMENTED BY CONCRETE OBJECTIVES.
JAIPAL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THOSE WHO HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH
SOUTH AFRICA HAVE A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO DEAL WITH
PRETORIA. MAURITIAN PERM REP RAMPHUL AGREED TO GO ALONG
IF WEST MAKES FIRM COMMITMENT, SHOULD WESTERN EFFORTS FAIL,

TO SUPPORT DRAFT RESOLUTIONS, WHICH NOW HAVE BACKING OF NON-ALIGNED AND AFRICANS. RESOLUTIONS COULD BE TABLED, BUT NOT VOTED ON UNTIL WE HAVE SEEN RESULTS OF A CONTACT GROUP'S EFFORTS.

3. AMB. RICHARD (UK) POINTED OUT TO RAMPHUL THAT POSITION OF NEW US ADMINISTRATION IS A VERY SIGNIFICANT ONE: US NOW IS ON THE SIDE OF THE AFRICANS CONCERNING SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES. BUT, FOR NEGOTIATING PURPOSES, WEST CANNOT HAVE RESOLUTIONS HANGING IN THE AIR MENACING VORSTER.

4. AMBASSADOR YOUNG REINFORCED POINT BY NOTING THAT WE ARE REACHING A CRITICAL MOMENT WITH SOUTH AFRICA, AS TIME FOR EMERGENCE OF INTERIM GOVERNMENT NEARS IN NAMIBIA. FURTHER, FUTURE OF NAMIBIA WILL AFFECT THAT OF ANGOLA. AND, MANNER IN WHICH WE HANDLE THESE ISSUES IS IMPORTANT IN BUILDING A US DOMESTIC CONSENSUS. FOR FIRST TIME, USG IS APPROACHING QUESTIONS OF SOUTH AFRICA, NAMIBIA, AND RHODESIA AS ONE PROBLEM. SOUTH AFRICA IS VULNERABLE TO PRESSURE FROM WESTERN TRADING PARTNERS, WHICH PRESSURE IS NECESSARY TO GET SOUTH AFRICA OUT OF LAAGER MENTALITY. WE HOPE FOR A STRATEGY WHICH COULD BEGIN TO PRODUCE MOVEMENT BY TIME OF MAPUTO CONFERENCE AND OAU SESSIONS, I.E., JUNE - JULY.

5. NIGERIAN PERM REP HARRIMAN SAID THAT HE WOULD CONSIDER ANY WESTERN INITIATIVE WHICH INCLUDED OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS OF ALL FOUR CURRENT DRAFT RESOLUTIONS. HE IS WILLING TO DELETE REFERENCES TO CHAPTER VII
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AND "STATE OF WAR". LIBYAN PERM REP KIKHIA INSISTED ON KNOWING SPECIFIC ELEMENTS WHICH WOULD BE INCLUDED IN A DECLARATION. TANZANIAN REP NURU ASKED FOR SAME. BOTH WELCOMED US INITIATIVE, HOWEVER, AMBASSADOR YOUNG ASSURED THOSE PRESENT OF SERIOUSNESS OF US COMMITMENT. BYRD AMENDMENT HAS BEEN REPEALED BY CONGRESS. VARIOUS USG DEPARTMENTS ARE CONSIDERING OTHER MEASURES, IN CONSULTATION WITH WESTERN EUROPEANS. EC-9 ALREADY HAVE SPOKEN TO SOUTH AFRICA CONCERNING TURNHALLE, AND WE ARE DISCUSSING ANOTHER APPROACH TO SOUTH AFRICA CONCERNING NAMIBIA. FRG PERM REP VON WECHMAR APPEALED TO AFRICANS "NOT TO TOPPLE CART" BY PUSHING FORWARD DRAFTS WHICH COULD ANTAGONIZE NEW FRG GOVERNMENT.

6. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION INVOLVING INDIAN, NIGERIAN, CANADIAN, UK AND MAURITIAN REPS, IT WAS AGREED THAT WESTERN MEMBERS OF SC COULD VOLUNTEER TO CONTACT PRETORIA CONCERNING NAMIBIA (OTHER QUESTIONS ALSO WOULD ARISE) AND REPORT BACK LATER INFORMALLY TO SC MEMBERS. NIGERIAN

PERM REP EXPLAINED DIFFICULTY AFRICANS WOULD HAVE ISSUING MANDATE IN SC TO SPEAK TO VORSTER, AND RICHARD EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER WHAT COULD BE A NARROW SC MANDATE. AFRICANS WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, OPPOSE FORMULA, WHEREBY WEST WOULD UNDERTAKE CONTACTS VOLUNTARILY, LIBYAN PERM REP CONCLUDED.

7. CANADA APPEALED TO AFRICANS NOT TO TABLE THEIR DRAFTS. UK ASKED FOR DEBATE TO BE DEFERRED ENTIRELY, BUT THIS WAS NOT ACCEPTED.

8. AMBASSADOR YOUNG PROPOSED THAT SEVERAL HALF DAYS WEEK OF MARCH 21 BE DEVOTED TO INFORMAL DRAFTING OF DECLARATION, AND THIS WAS AGREED TO. MAURITIAN PERM REP RAMPHUL HAS MANDATE FROM "NON-ALIGNED" TO SEE SOVIETS, CHINESE, AND SEVERAL OTHER SC MEMBERS WITH HARRIMAN DRAFTS. MCHENRY APPEALED TO HIM TO RESPECT OUR VIEWS AS REPRESENTING A "NEW APPROACH" IN WHICH ALL SC MEMBERS WOULD WORK TOGETHER AND CONFIDENTIAL

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DEPRIVE SAG OF CONCLUSION THAT THERE IS DIVISION AMONG SC MEMBERS. IN HIS NEGOTIATIONS, RAMPHUL SHOULD NOT DESCRIBE ONE POSITION AS "HIS" AND THE OTHER AS "THEIRS".

9. IT WAS AGREED THAT US AND WEST WOULD PROCEED IN DRAFTING ELEMENTS OF DECLARATION AND PROGRAM OF ACTION. FURTHER, THAT INDEPENDENT OF SC, WEST WOULD VOLUNTEER TO ACT AS CONTACT GROUP. ALL PRESENT AGREED TO SUPPORT US EFFORTS, ALTHOUGH IT WAS IMPLICIT THAT DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ARE "NO LONGER PROPERTY OF AFRICAN GROUP" AND THAT SHOULD "OTHER MEMBERS OF COUNCIL" WITH WHOM THEY STILL REMAIN TO BE DISCUSSED WISH, DRAFTS MAY YET BE TABLED.
YOUNG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FORM OF GOVERNMENT, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USUNN00805
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770092-0543
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770343/aaaablz.tel
Line Count: 152
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d6a15cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 USUN NEW YORK 788
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3060518
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY COUNCIL: SOUTH AFRICA
TAGS: PFOR, US, SF, WA, UNSC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d6a15cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009